ICHIJINSHA
RAINBOW
楽時たらひ
SECRET
RAKUJI TARAHI

相思相愛トップシークレット

楽時たらひ

RAKUJI TARAHI

RAI NBOW SECRET

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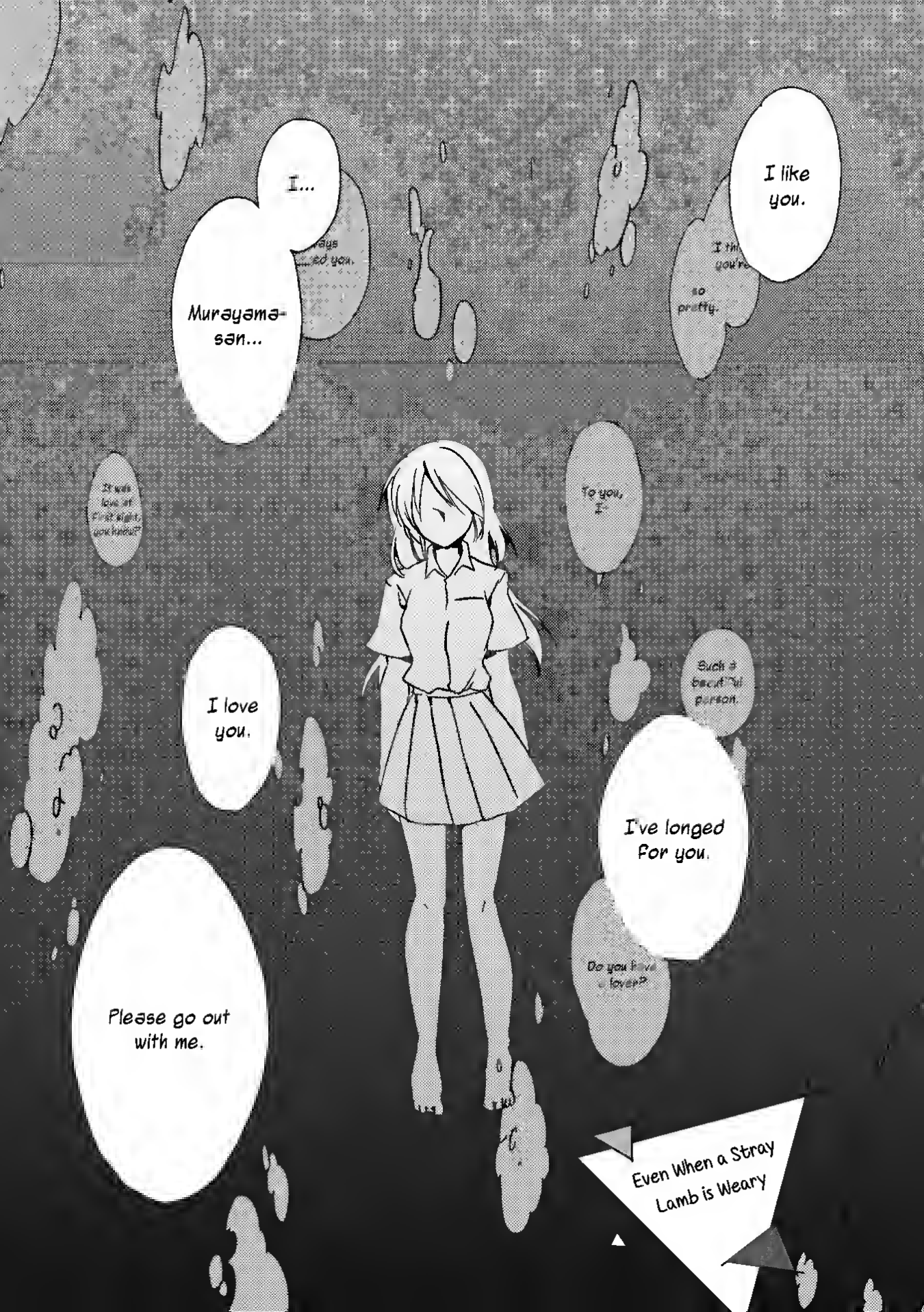

I...
Murayama-san...
I like you.
so pretty.
It was love at first sight, you know?
To you, I-
I love you.
Such a beautiful person.
I've longed for you.
Please go out with me.
Even When a Stray Lamb is Weary

.....
SURE...
Up till now,
I've been asked out
and dated more people
than I can count.

In the end,
they all left
me, saying,
"I don't feel
like you love me
at all."

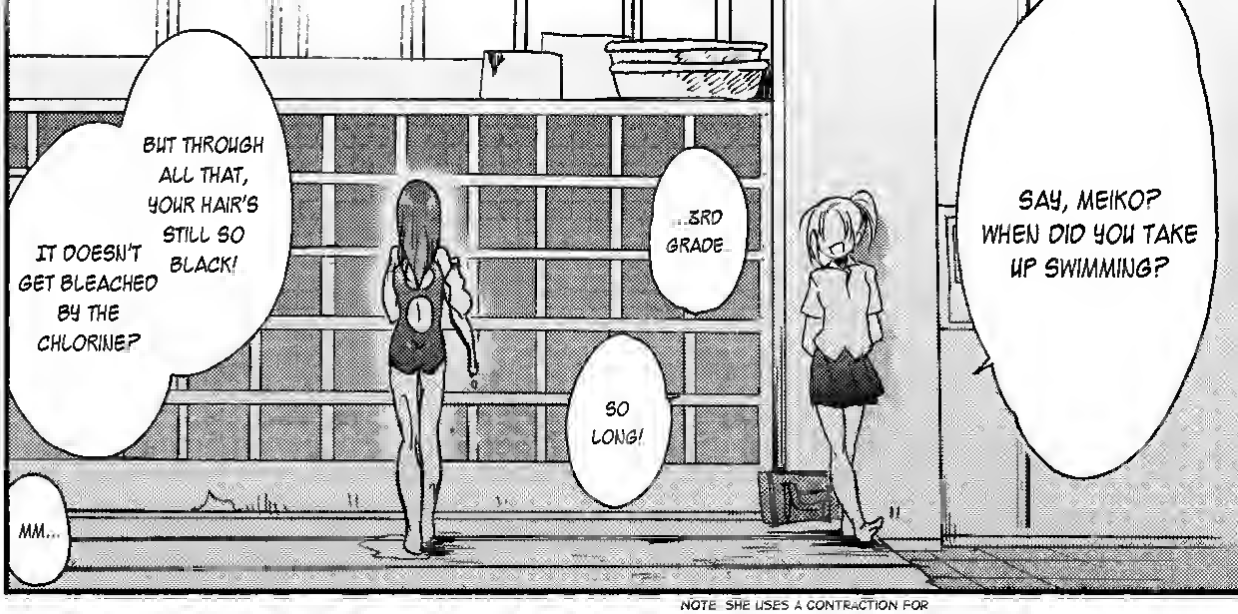
And thus far,
each of my relationships
ended before lasting
even a month.

MEIKO,
FOUND YOU!

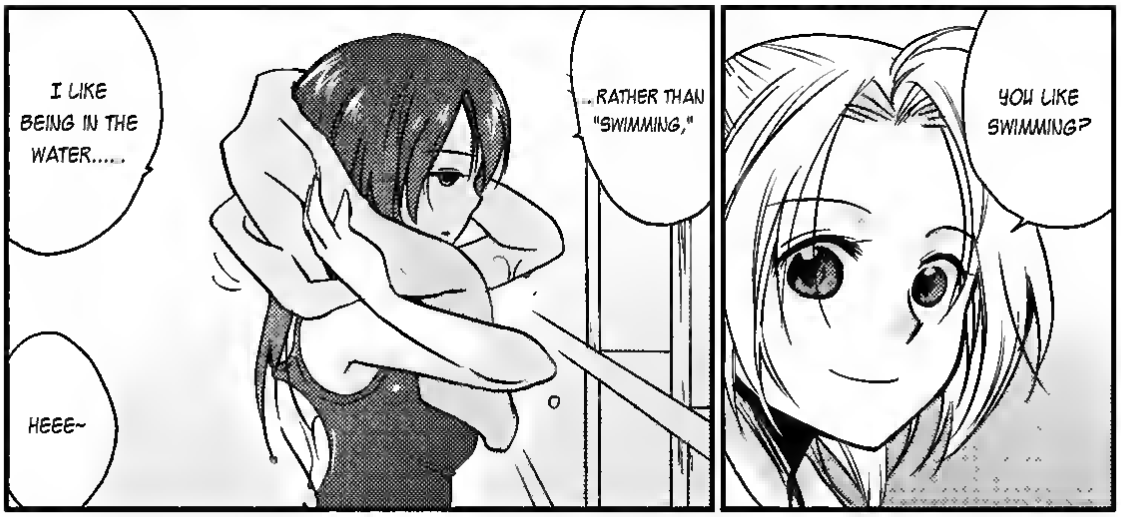
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THIS?
CLUB ACTIVITIES ENDED A WHILE AGO, YOU KNOW.
...WHAT TIME IS IT?
5.

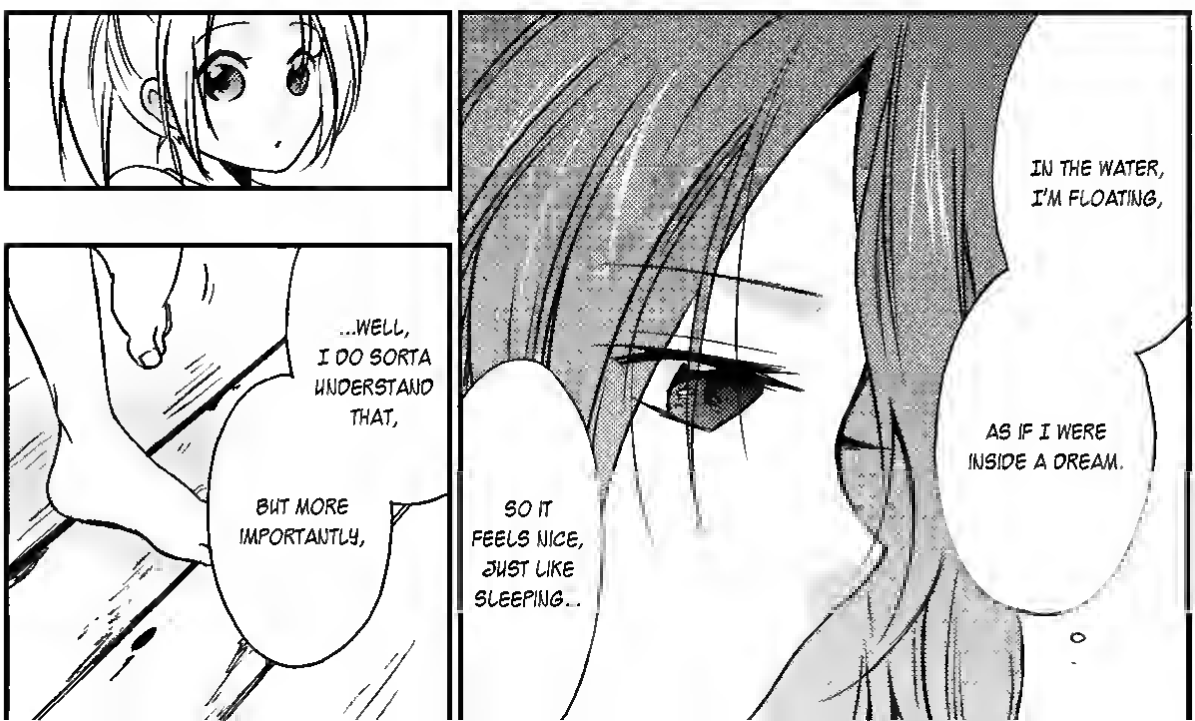
HIRO
...
YOU WEREN'T AT OUR MEETING PLACE, SO I HAD TO SEARCH FOR YOU.

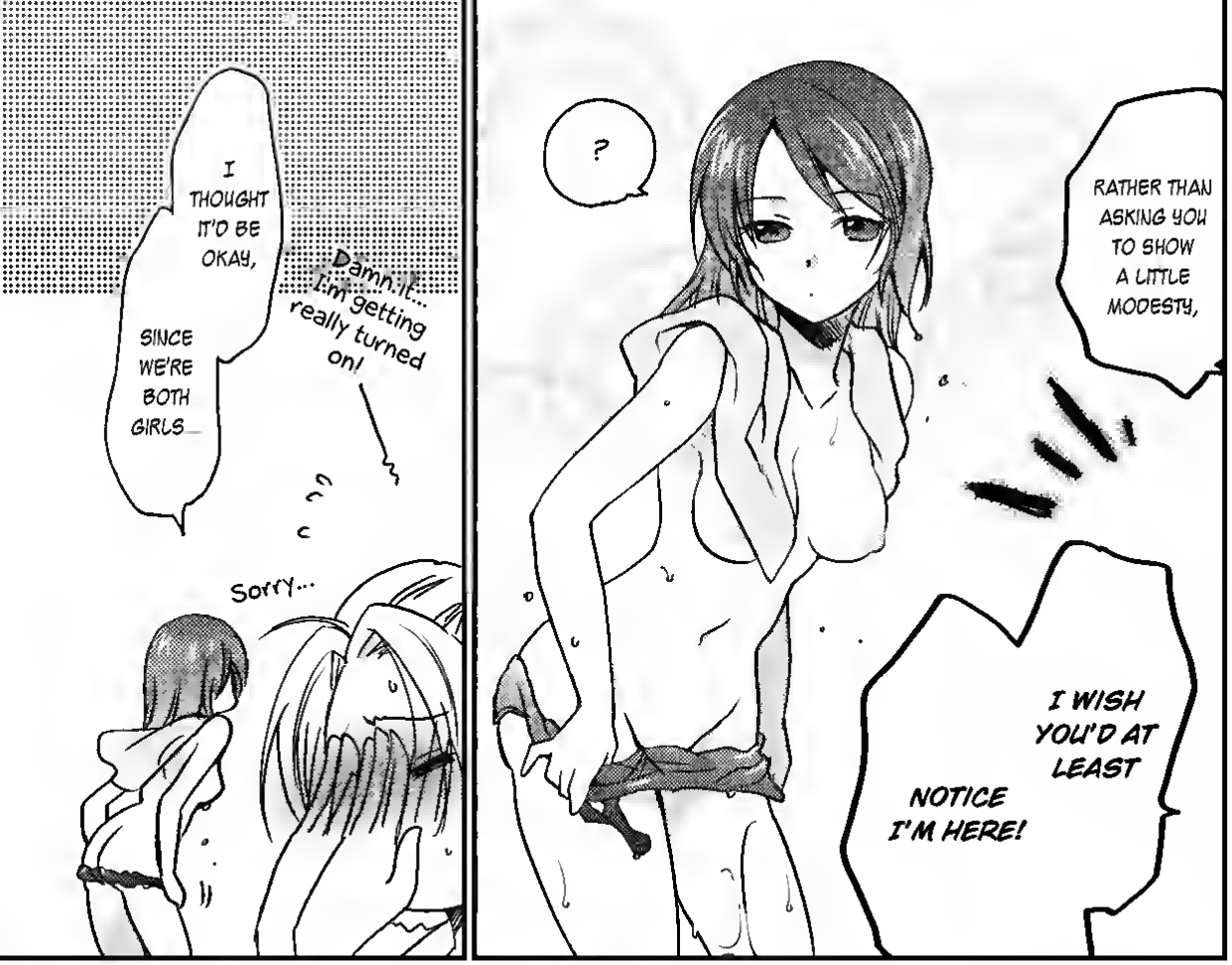
FL
OP
C'MON,
LET'S GO HOME.
.....
OKAY.

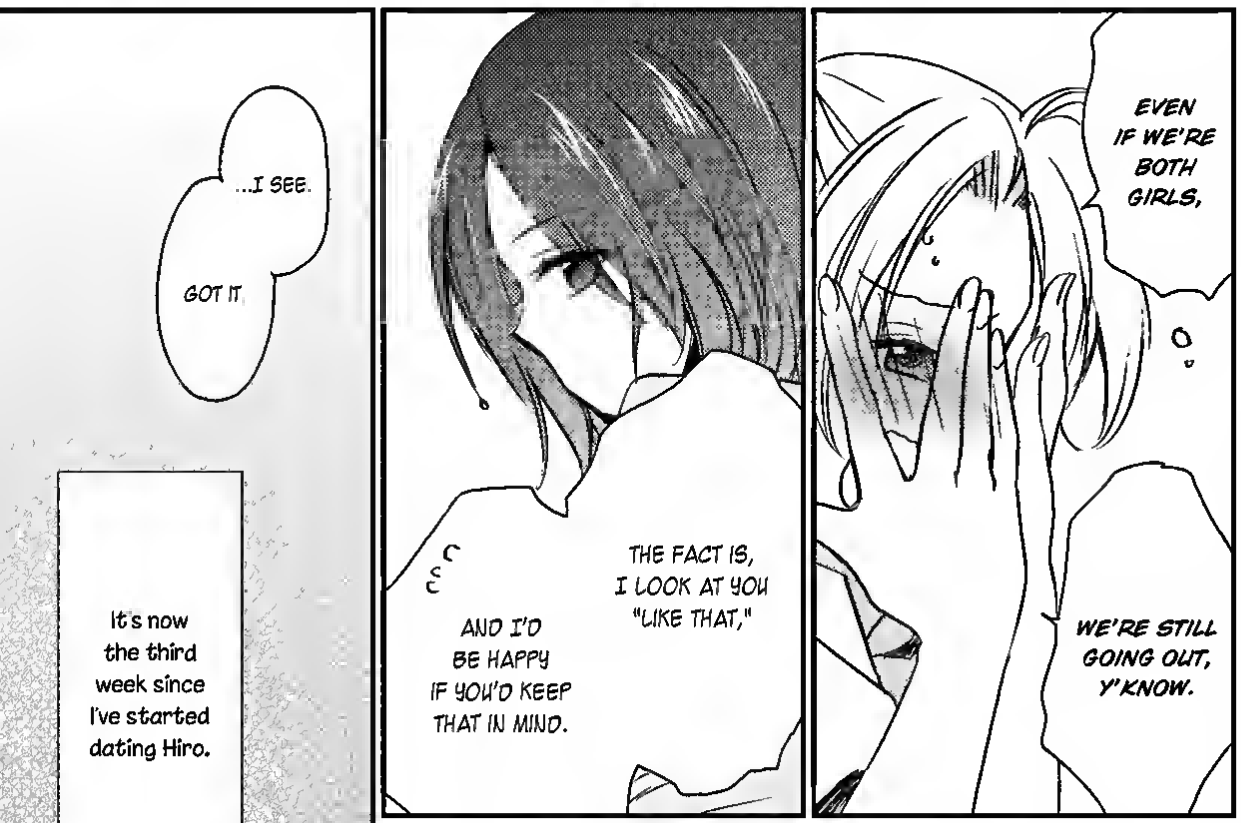

SAY, MEIKO? WHEN DID YOU TAKE UP SWIMMING?
...3RD GRADE.
SO LONG!
BUT THROUGH ALL THAT, YOUR HAIR'S STILL SO BLACK!
IT DOESN'T GET BLEACHED BY THE CHLORINE?
MM...

NOTE: SHE USES A CONTRACTION FOR "3RD YEAR OF PRIMARY SCHOOL" CORRESPONDING TO 8 YEARS OLD



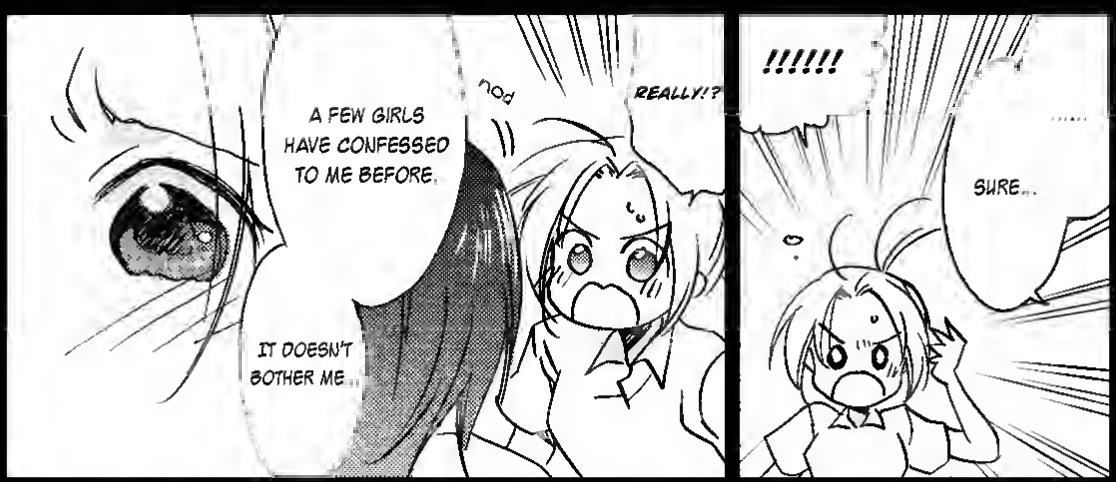

IN THE WATER, I'M FLOATING,
AS IF I WERE INSIDE A DREAM.
SO IT FEELS NICE, JUST LIKE SLEEPING...
...WELL, I DO SORTA UNDERSTAND THAT,
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY,


I THOUGHT IT'D BE OKAY,
SINCE WE'RE BOTH GIRLS...
Damn it... I'm getting really turned on!
Sorry...
?
RATHER THAN ASKING YOU TO SHOW A LITTLE MODESTY,
I WISH YOU'D AT LEAST NOTICE I'M HERE!

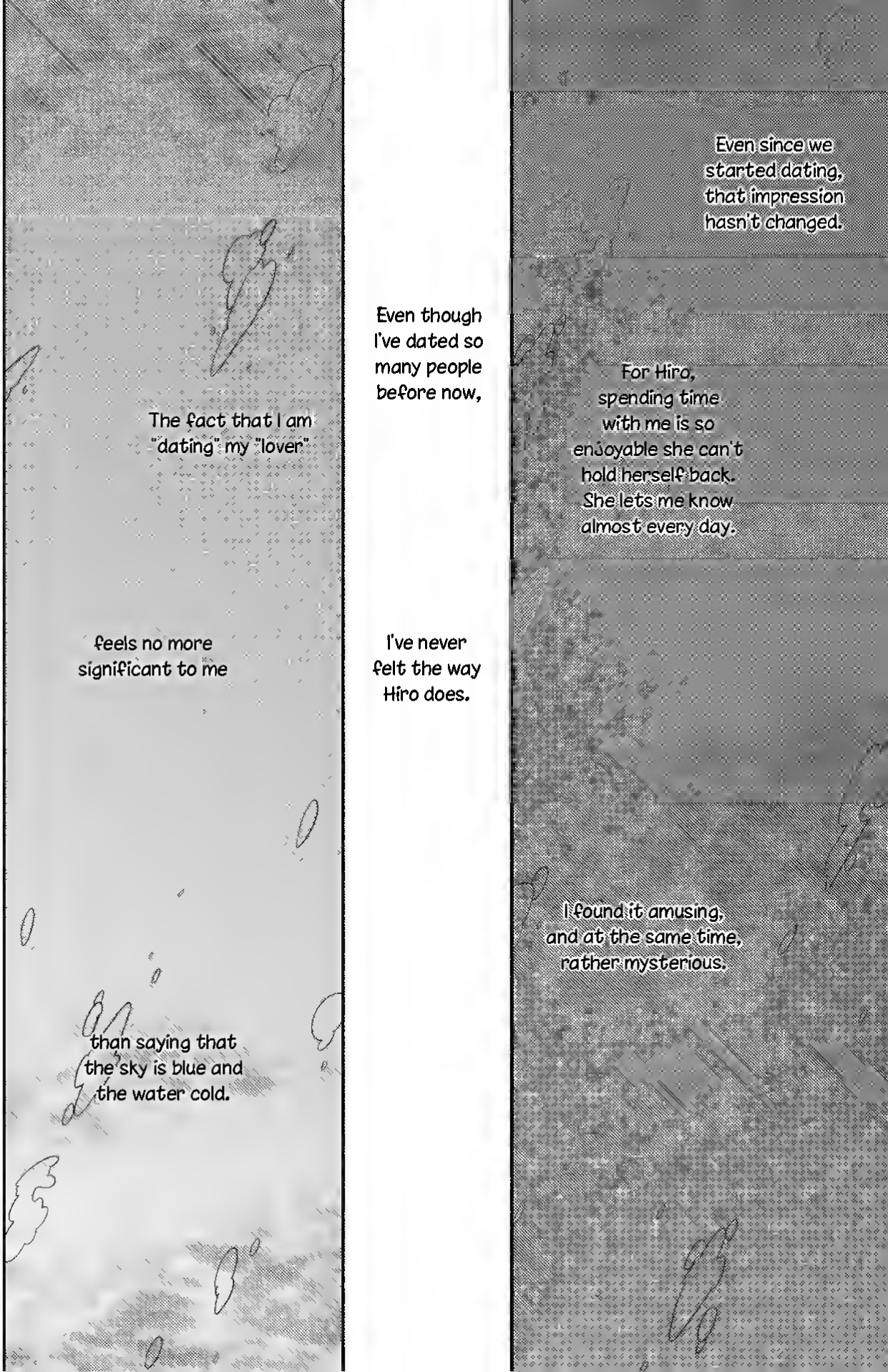

...I SEE.
GOT IT.
It's now the third week since I've started dating Hiro.
AND I'D BE HAPPY IF YOU'D KEEP THAT IN MIND.
THE FACT IS, I LOOK AT YOU "LIKE THAT,"
EVEN IF WE'RE BOTH GIRLS,
WE'RE STILL GOING OUT, Y'KNOW.

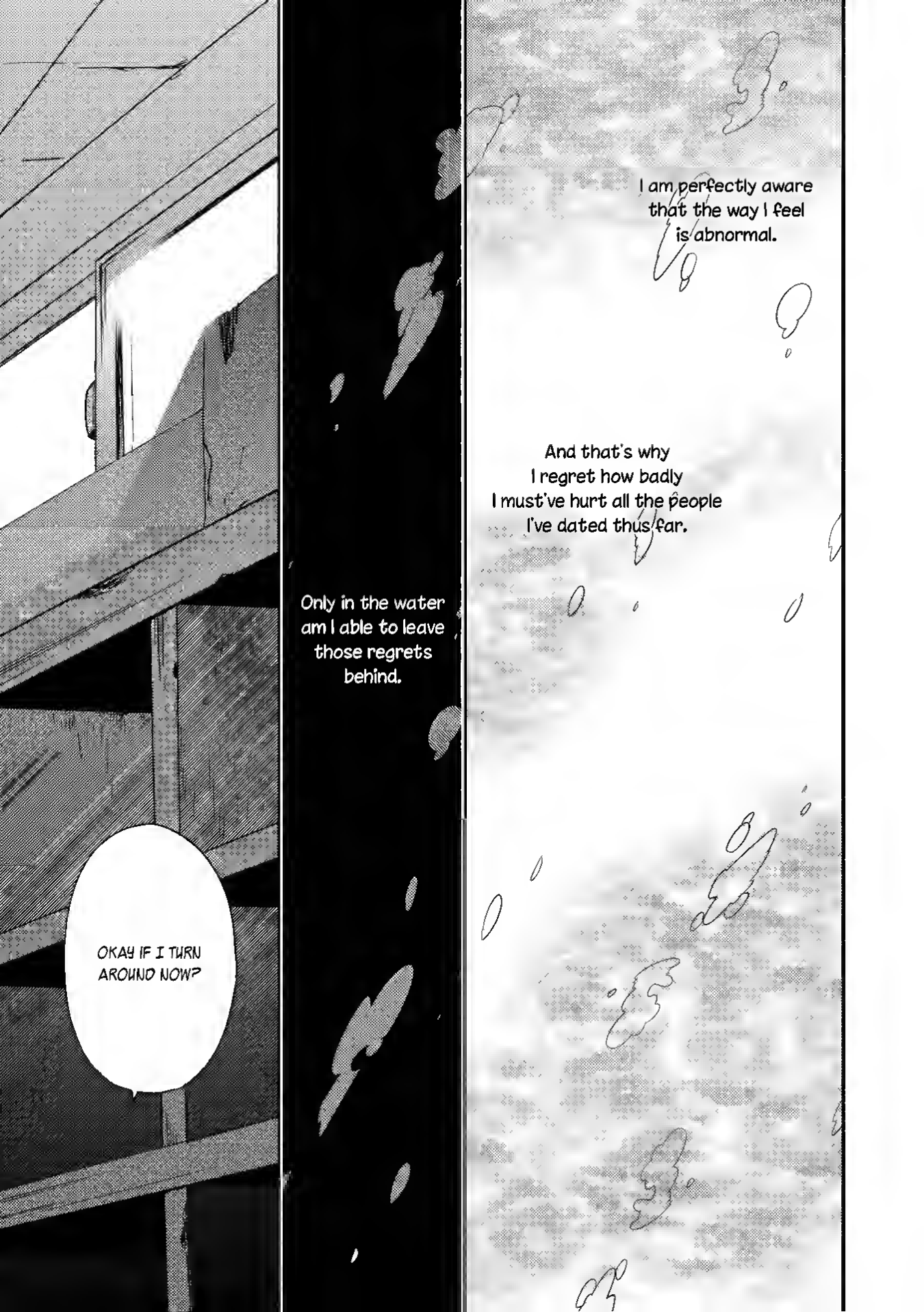
I GUESS
IT'S
NO GOOD...
Right After Midterms

PLAIN WRONG, DOESN'T IT...
DATING A GIRL
FEELS


A FEW GIRLS HAVE CONFESSED TO ME BEFORE.
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME...
nod
REALLY!?
!!!!!!
.....
SURE...

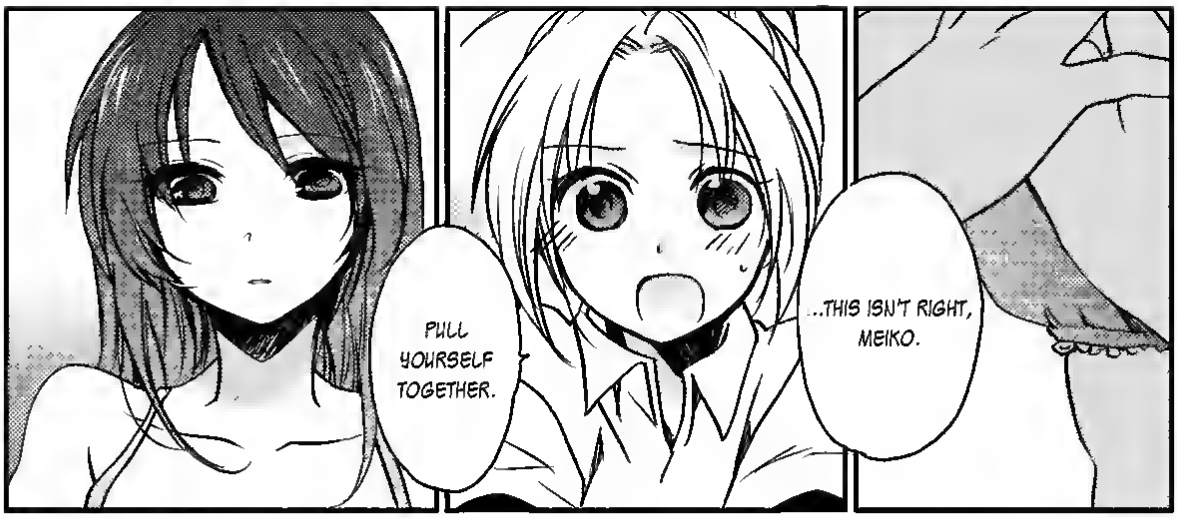
It was when she rejoiced and embraced me upon hearing my answer,
that I first noticed how open she is with her emotions.
Then from now on call me Hiro!
It's short for Hiromi!
I'm so happy
I feel like I'm dreaming!

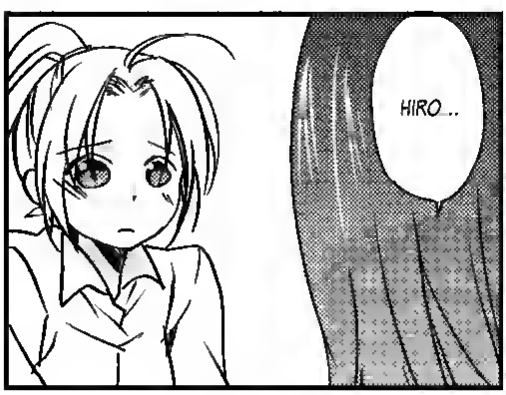

Even since we started dating, that impression hasn't changed.
Even though I've dated so many people before now,
For Hiro, spending time with me is so enjoyable she can't hold herself back. She lets me know almost every day.
The fact that I am "dating" my "lover"
feels no more significant to me
I've never felt the way Hiro does.
I found it amusing, and at the same time, rather mysterious.
than saying that the sky is blue and the water cold.

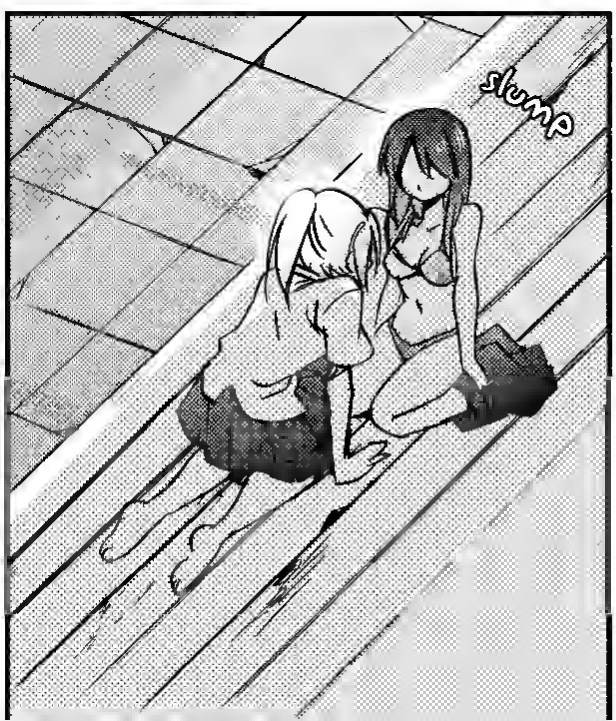

I am perfectly aware that the way I feel is abnormal.
And that's why I regret how badly I must've hurt all the people I've dated thus far.
Only in the water am I able to leave those regrets behind.
OKAY IF I TURN AROUND NOW?

C'mon...
OKAY! THANK--
YOU'RE STILL HALF NAKED!
IT'S FINE.
WHY DOES THIS MAKE
YOUR HEART BEAT LIKE THAT?
.....
..HEY, HIRO,

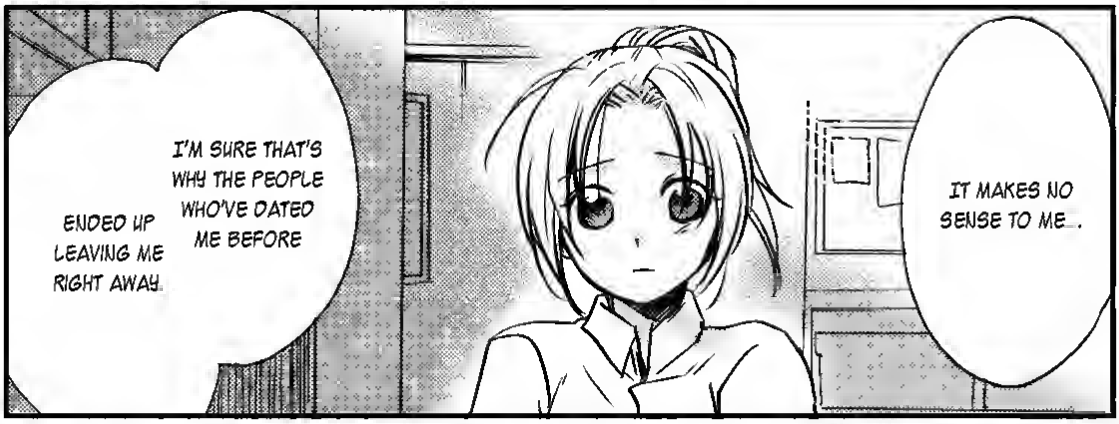
Sexy
WHEN I SHOW YOU MY BODY LIKE THIS,
IT MAKES YOU HAPPY?
"WHY"...?
I DON'T GET IT
...!?
IS IT LESS?
OR
thud
WHAT IF I DO THIS, IS IT EVEN MORE EXCITING?
SLIP
HOW ABOUT THIS, MORE.....?

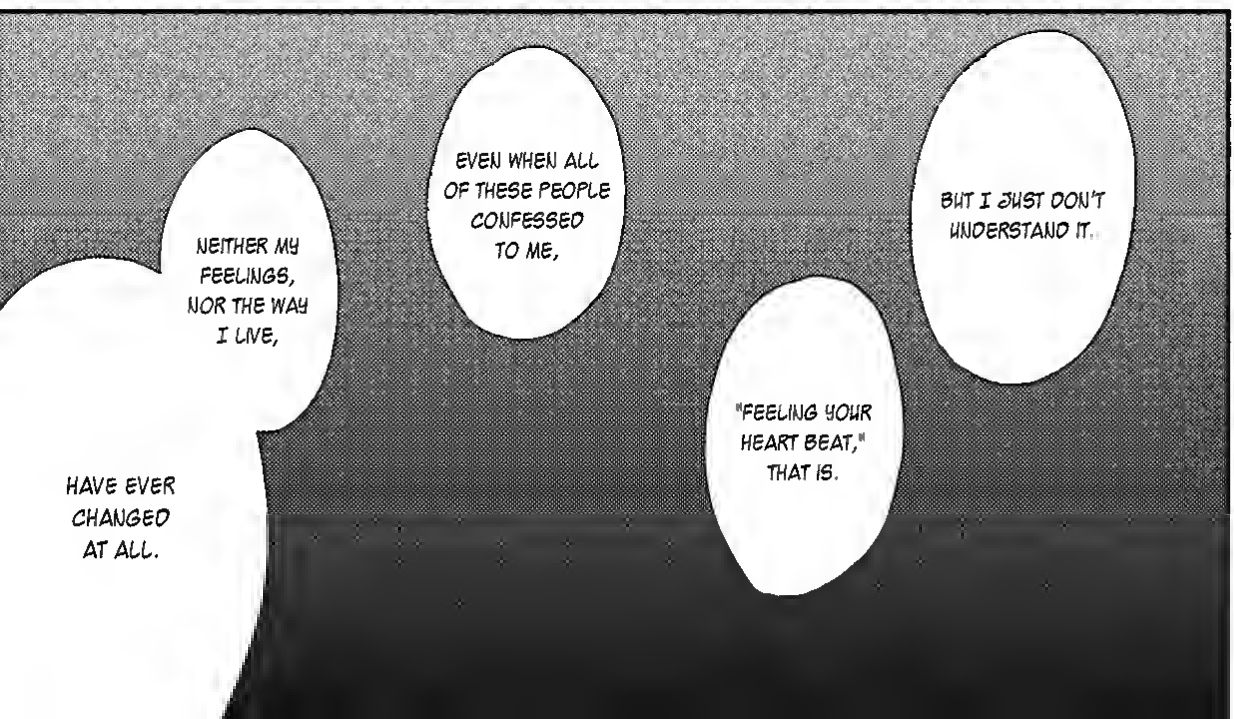

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.
...THIS ISN'T RIGHT, MEIKO.


HIRO...

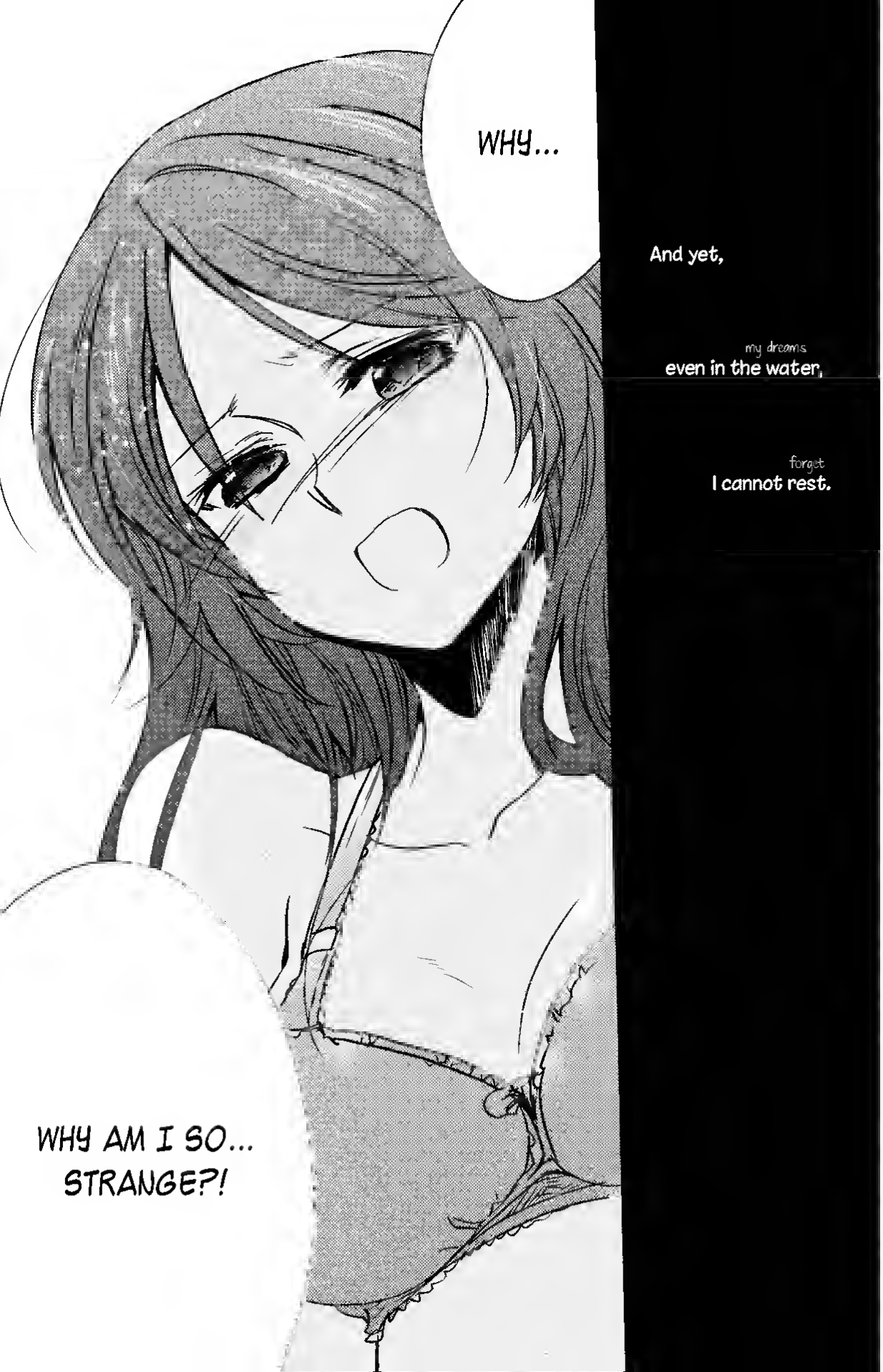

slump

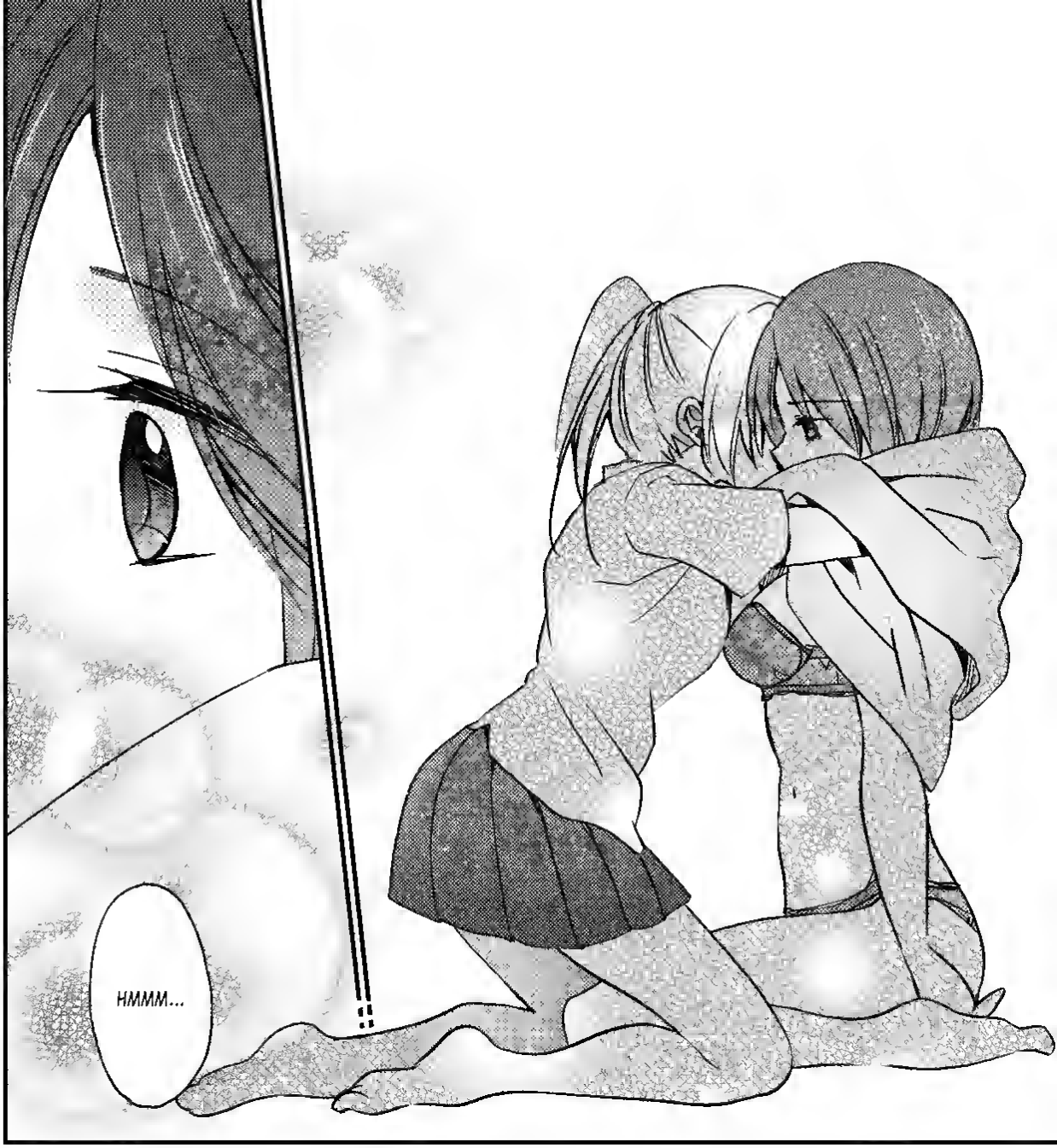
"DATING SOMEONE,"
"FALLING IN LOVE,"
WHAT DOES THAT FEEL LIKE?


I'M SURE THAT'S WHY THE PEOPLE WHO'VE DATED ME BEFORE
ENDED UP LEAVING ME RIGHT AWAY.
IT MAKES NO SENSE TO ME...


BUT I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.
EVEN WHEN ALL OF THESE PEOPLE CONFESSED TO ME,
NEITHER MY FEELINGS, NOR THE WAY I LIVE,
"FEELING YOUR HEART BEAT," THAT IS.
HAVE EVER CHANGED AT ALL.

SINCE I DON'T UNDERSTAND, I AVOID THINKING ABOUT IT.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, EVER SINCE I'VE STARTED DATING YOU, HIRO,
THESE DARK THOUGHTS WON'T DISAPPEAR, EVEN WHEN I'M IN THE WATER.
Nothing has changed,
neither my daily life,
nor my feelings of regret.

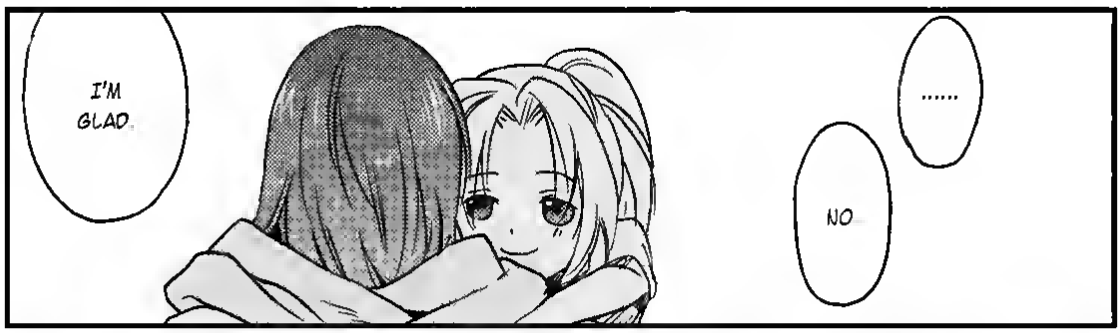

WHY...
And yet,
my dreams
even in the water,
forget
I cannot rest.
WHY AM I SO...
STRANGE?!



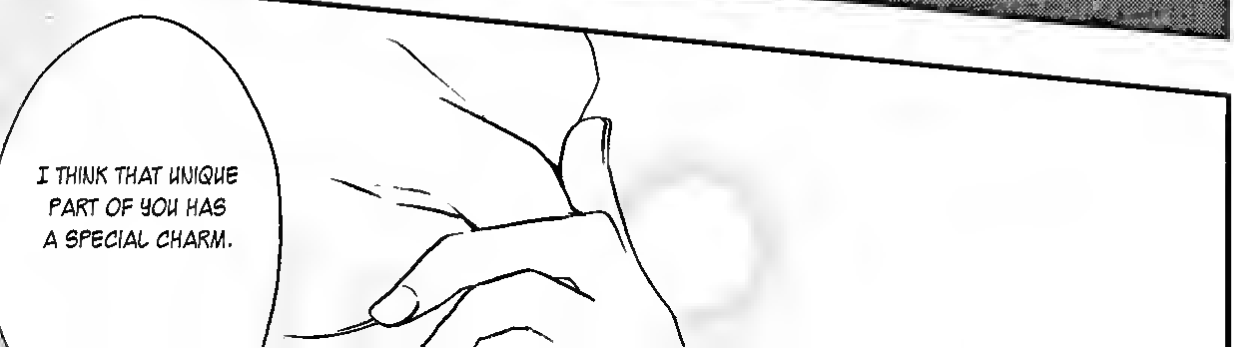
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU GOT IN THE POOL WITHOUT ANY SLEEP...?

EVEN THOUGH I KNOW YOUR WARMTH, YOU REALLY DO FEEL COLD, DON'T YOU?

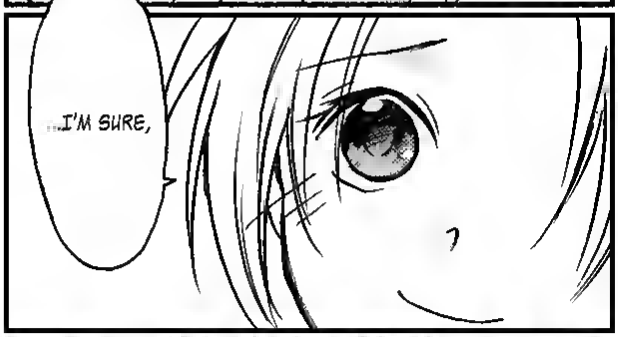
...MEIKO,
DO YOU HATE THIS?


I'M
GLAD
.....
NO

DING
DONG
DING
DONG
.....Y'KNOW,
MEIKO,


I THINK THAT UNIQUE
PART OF YOU HAS
A SPECIAL CHARM.

BUT YOU'VE BECOME FAR TOO COLD IN THE WATER.
SO COLD, MAYBE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE WARMTH OF YOUR OWN BODY.


...I'M SURE,

THE REASON YOUR ANXIETY WON'T LEAVE
IS THAT YOU'VE DECIDED YOU WANT TO CHANGE.

I WANT TO CHANGE...?
YES
!
PU
SH
flop
EVEN IF YOU THINK EVERYTHING'S THE SAME,
WHEN YOU YOURSELF ARE CHANGING,
THE SAME WORLD APPEARS KINDA DIFFERENT, DOESN'T IT?
.....
HEY, MEIKO?

Y'KNOW,
THROUGH MY OWN FEELINGS, I CAME TO LOVE AND EVEN CONFESSED TO THE FOOLISH, AWKWARD BEAUTY MURAYAMA MEIKO.
I EVEN GOT TO BECOME YOUR GIRLFRIEND.

I'M SO HAPPY.
BUT I'M STILL NOT SATISFIED.

I WANT
EVEN MORE OF YOU.

NOT ONLY DO I WANT YOU ALL TO MYSELF,

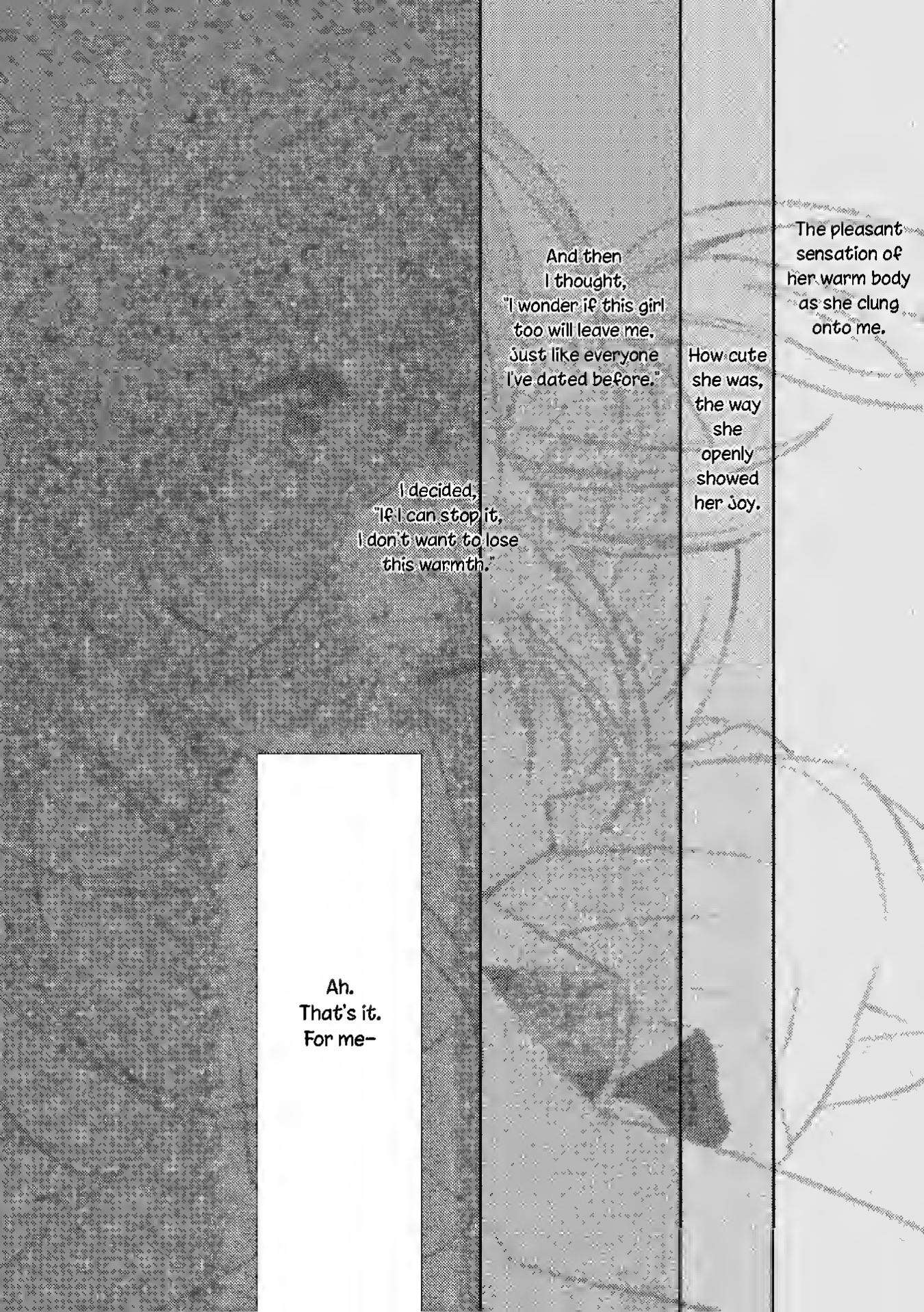
I WANT YOUR WORRIES AND YOUR JOYS, YOU AS YOU ARE TODAY AND THE YOU WHO WANTS TO CHANGE.

I WANT TO ACCEPT ALL OF YOU, AND I'M CONFIDENT I WILL.

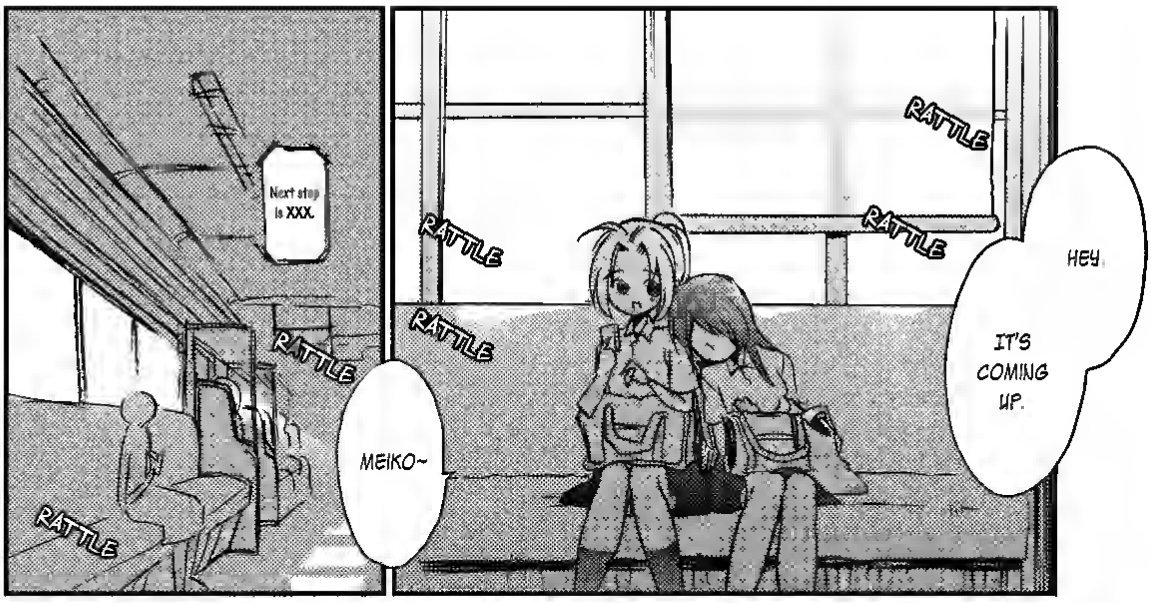
CAN YOU FEEL IT, MEIKO?
THIS IS MY LOVE.

THIS
IS WHAT IT MEANS
TO FALL IN LOVE.

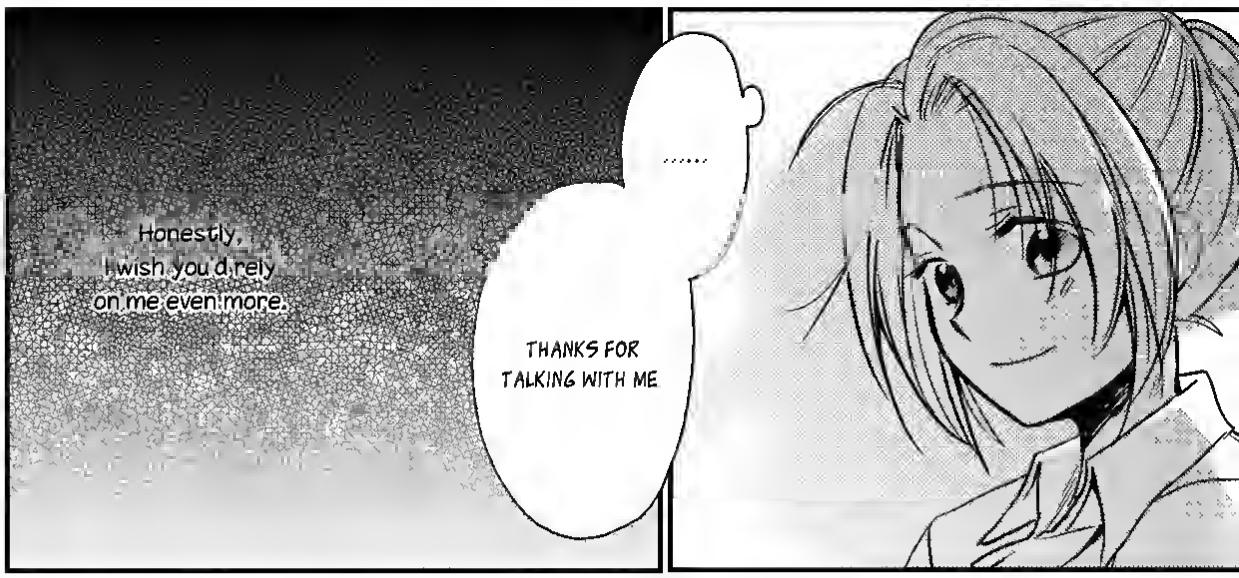
As Hiro's warmth spread through me,
I recalled the moment she confessed to me.


The pleasant sensation of her warm body as she clung onto me.
How cute she was, the way she openly showed her joy.
And then I thought, "I wonder if this girl too will leave me. Just like everyone I've dated before."
I decided, "If I can stop it, I don't want to lose this warmth."
Ah. That's it. For me-

For me,
it was the fear of Hiro
inevitably leaving that
made me want to
change myself...


Next stop is XXX.
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
MEIKO~
HEY.
IT'S COMING UP.

ZZZ...


Honestly, I wish you'd rely on me even more.
.....
THANKS FOR TALKING WITH ME.

So much that
you come to need
no one but me.

SO CUTE...

IT'S NOT
MY FAULT
IF I JUMP YOU,
DUMMY.

RAINBOW

SECRET

RAINBOW SECRET

BY RAKUJI TARAHI

Even When a Stray Lamb is Weary

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